



Environmental Advisory Committee - Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2010
Time: 6:40 pm
File: 0540-20

Present:

A. Schulze - Chair
Councillor Bose
B. Burnside
B. Campbell
C. Dragomir
K. Keshvani
G. Sangha
B. Stewart

Regrets:

M. Deo
M. Harcourt
G. Sahota

Staff Present:

C. Baron, Drainage and Environmental
Manager
O. Croy, Manager, Parks
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

**Agricultural Advisory
Committee Representative:**

S. VanKeulen

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was

Moved by Cllr. Bose

Seconded by C. Dragomir

That the minutes of the Environmental

Advisory Committee meeting held on April 28, 2010, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

1. Pesticide Control By-law

File: 5280-23

At the Regular Council Public Hearing meeting held on May 3, 2010, the following motion was passed:

"That "Surrey Pesticide Use Control By-law, 2010, No. 17160" be finally adopted, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed with the Corporate Seal."

The Committee thanked the Chair and Vice Chair for their delegation to Council on May 3, 2010, to provide a brief account of the Committee's work and dedication in adopting the by-law, for which the Committee congratulates Council.

Comments were as follows:

- Council was advised that more time was devoted to the pesticide control by-law than any other issue during the past year and a half. It was further noted that the EAC is a proactive group that are committed to their work on the environment and as such, will be providing updates to Council more often.

- Following the adoption of the pesticide control by-law, the City took out a full-page advertisement in the local newspaper (May 7, 2010) that directed readers to the City's website that provides a number of alternatives as well as answers to some frequently asked questions and areas of responsibility. Contact numbers for further information are also noted on the website.
- All in all, there has been more of a positive than negative response to the by-law. There hasn't really been an overwhelming number of calls which have been reduced to only a few per week. For the most part, it is has been a case of residents not being aware of the exemptions and calls from those in the landscape trades who are looking for clarification that their contracts are not compromised. The calls, and the nature of the calls, are being logged in order to provide that information back to the Committee in due course.
- A brochure will also be developed to place in the libraries and recreation centres and as well as a page in the Leisure Guide will be dedicated to talking about organic gardening and alternative pesticides, etc.
- Some retail stores have been removing certain product from their shelves and are now stocking and promoting safe and acceptable alternative products.
- A letter, dated May 14, 2010, from Weed Man Surrey, regarding the use of natural pesticide alternatives, was provided on table. Discussion ensued with respect to materials that are clearly synthetic pesticides and those other products that are concoctions of a number of materials that, by themselves as single products, would not be considered a pesticide. It was determined that there should be some form of certification from an organized body, similar to those that review the natural products used by organic farmers. It is an issue that is going to require further consideration and appropriate response as the development of natural alternatives increases.
- It would be appropriate to bring forward any concerns and/or proposed amendments to the pesticide control by-law to the October EAC meeting in order to provide further discussion and recommendations to go forward to Council in November.

It was

Moved by Councillor Bose

Seconded by B. Campbell

That at the regular meeting of the

Environmental Advisory Committee in October, 2010, the Surrey Pesticide Use Control By-Law, 2010, No. 17160 be reviewed, with a view to making amendments that appear appropriate.

Carried

The Committee was reminded of past discussions exploring the opportunity to acknowledge individuals, companies and/or organizations that have shown environmental leadership, noting that the October meeting would also be an appropriate time to recognize and express appreciation to those parties.

2. **Pesticide Spraying Concern**

At the April 28, 2010 EAC meeting, the Committee was advised of a situation where there had not been proper notice given regarding an intention to spray pesticides to control an ant infestation in a local school. It was requested that the matter be discussed further at the May 26, 2010 meeting. Further discussion determined that the issue had been dealt with and that no further involvement of the Committee was necessary.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

1. Corporate Report Ro83 – Surrey’s Innovative Drainage Policies & “Green” Design Standards to be Presented at Provincial and National Events

File: 5225-00; 5210-10

The above subject Corporate Report was reviewed by the Committee noting the recognition from both the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of B.C. (APEGBC) and the Canadian Water Resources Association (CWRA) of Surrey’s leadership and achievements in watershed management, aquatic habitat protection, modeling, analysis, policy development and governance.

It was

Moved by B. Campbell

Seconded by S. Van Keulen

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

receive Corporate Report Ro83, *Surrey’s Innovative Drainage Policies & “Green” Design Standards to be Presented at Provincial and National Events*, for information.

Carried

Comments were as follows:

- City staff presented at an APEGBC development seminar on May 19, 2010, which was focused on developing “green” drainage designs. The response was very good and extremely worthwhile. As the seminar was geared for engineers, discussions ensued regarding best management practices (BMPs) with site divisions, working in streams, design streams, etc., making it more real life than text book, which came of out trying to provide information to engineers on design that includes consideration for the environment.
- City staff will also be presenting at the CWRA national Conference in Vancouver, June 15 – 18, 2010, which will be more project based (e.g. from concept to final phase and implementation). Eight technical papers will be presented from Surrey (as outlined in the Corporate Report).
- Surrey’s Engineering Department has a long history of accomplishments with respect to innovation in drainage policies and works.
- Protection of the natural water courses, for which the Committee supports the continuation of, goes back to Mike Jones (then City Engineer) who pioneered the work in developing Surrey’s natural drainage policy, which is still frequently referenced.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

It was Moved by B. Campbell
Seconded by S. Van Keulen
That the Environmental Advisory Committee recommends that Council request that staff investigate an appropriate acknowledgement for the key staff that formulated and initiated the City of Surrey's award-winning Natural Drainage Policy.
Carried

2. Corporate Report Ro96 – Official Community Plan Amendment – Targets for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions
File: 3900-20-12900

It was Moved by Councillor Bose
Seconded by B. Stewart
That the Environmental Advisory Committee receive Corporate Report Ro96, *Official Community Plan Amendment – Targets for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, as information.
Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) Update

An update from the AAC meeting of May 6, 2010, was provided. The following was noted:

- The question was asked whether the recently announced biofuel plant would make the proposed commercial composting facility in South Surrey redundant. In response, the AAC was advised that the two plants could operate cooperatively, with residue from the biofuel plant going to the compost facility for further processing.
- C. Baron, Environmental and Drainage Manager, was in attendance to discuss soil deposition application matters as they relate to the ALR. Guidance is being sought for improving the process through which these applications are handled. There was a lengthy discussion, but little was resolved. It was determined that the formal position of the Agricultural Land Commission on issues such as multiple dwellings on ALR land needed to be clarified.
- Preliminary plans for the third annual Flavours of Surrey event were discussed noting Council's concern with regard to the significant costs for such a limited capacity and the change in having only one caterer rather than the use of several local restaurants.
- AAC members expressed interest in including the Historic Stewart Farm as one of the demonstration or research projects on managing weeds without pesticides.

2. **Development Advisory Committee (DAC) Update**

There has not been a DAC meeting since the April 22, 2010 meeting which was reported on at the April 28, 2010 EAC meeting.

H. **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Agenda was varied.

2. **Solid Waste**

It was requested that there be some discussion regarding solid waste. Comments were as follows:

- In an effort to determine whether or not the single-stream process is better, a number of questions have been raised with regard to the quality of the recycled materials and if there is a market for those materials? There should be a lifecycle for the end product.
- It seems that single stream encourages more garbage. There is a perception that there is an army of people that separate the recycling somewhere else, when in fact, there isn't.
- Ultimately the goal is to have the public really think about their waste generation and making proper choices by considering the end result.
- Soft plastics and styrofoam are now making up a huge portion of the garbage stream being sent out (hard pressed to fill a garbage can with garbage). However, the materials that some see as plastic (soft plastic) is ending up in the blue box because it looks so much like recyclable materials.
- It was noted that a neighbourhood recently undertook an experiment where 90 blue boxes were sorted. Of those 90 boxes, 89% of the contents were allowable recyclable materials that were properly prepared.
- The Committee should have an update from Rob Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager, to review waste stream volumes and residuals as well as the status of the City's collection contract. It would be ideal to have a presentation in July.

1. **EAC 2010 Priority Items & Work Plan**

The 2010 Priority Items & Work Plan was reviewed and delegation opportunities were considered. Comments were as follows:

- A full review of the pesticide control by-law should be scheduled for the October meeting.
- As noted earlier, an update from the Deputy Operations Manager should be scheduled for the July meeting in order to provide enough time for the Committee to review any questions or concerns (at their June meeting) to put forward to the Deputy Operations Manager prior to the July meeting.
- In the context of updating/upgrading the Solid Waste Management Plan, discussion opportunities with Metro Vancouver should be pursued in order to gain a better understanding of the waste management industry (including everything from asphalt to construction waste, etc.) and how each sector fits in to the Solid Waste Management Plan. It would also be beneficial to have a

presentation on waste to energy information and an update with regard to transfer stations and incinerators.

- ICI type waste needs to be addressed; it constitutes industrial waste that is half of the waste stream. It would be greatly appreciated if, during the Metro Vancouver Presentation, time permits for discussion about the opportunities for the ICI sector other than the regular residential stream - the instructional industrial waste stream.
- There is growing concern with regard to the recycling of larger scale items such as automobiles. The businesses in Surrey that offer automobile recycling are not following the guidelines with regard to spills and pollution and should be addressed.
- Having a recycling industry is an essential building block to Surrey's industrial commercial initiatives. Time will be scheduled at the November meeting to discuss the importance of the recycling industry.
- Discussion regarding commercial composting on agricultural property and how that will be addressed should be considered for a future meeting.
- The Manager, Parks, proposed a future Committee meeting to be held at the Surrey Nature Centre which could include a short presentation from staff on the Nature Matters program and a brief tour of the facility.

It was

Moved by S. Van Keulen

Seconded by B. Stewart

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

invite the following delegations:

1. A representative of Metro Vancouver to the June 23, 2010 meeting to provide a presentation on waste to energy initiatives; and
2. The Deputy Operations Manager to the July 28, 2010 meeting to provide an update to the Draft Solid Waste Management Plan goals and address any concerns the Committee may have.

Carried

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Environmental Advisory Committee will be held on June 23, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Campbell

Seconded by B. Burnside

That the Environmental Advisory Committee

meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Environmental Committee adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Al Schulze, Chair
Surrey Environmental Advisory Committee